

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-01  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
/068 W

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P R 181645Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9353  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, BE, US  
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-BELGIAN CHARTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

REF: (A) 75 BRUSSELS 9640 (NOTAL) (B) 75 STATE 227507  
(C) 76 BRUSSELS 3438

1. SUMMARY. BELGIAN DGCA VANDERPERREN ASKS WHETHER THE US GOVERNMENT IS STILL INTERESTED IN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON PASSENGER CHARTER AIR SERVICES. IF SO, HE INTENDS TO PROPOSE FORMAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT. THE BELGIANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO BASE THESE TALKS ON THE EXPIRED CHARTER MOU. THEY WOULD NOT LINK A NEW CHARTER UNDERSTANDING TO SATISFACTION OF BELGIAN DEMANDS RELATING TO SCHEDULED SERVICES. THEY WOULD NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO ADHERE TO ECAC CHARTER GUIDELINES. END SUMMARY.

2. VANDERPERREN TOLD US THAT HE CONSIDERS IT DESIRABLE THAT THERE BE A WRITTEN BILATERAL UNDERSTANDING ONCE AGAIN ON CHARTERS. PAN AM AND CERTAIN US SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS  
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HAVE MENTIONED TO HIM THAT IT WOULD BE REASSURING TO THEM, EVEN THOUGH BELGIAN POLICY REMAINS EXCEEDINGLY LIBERAL ON LANDING CLEARANCE AND THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CHANGE THAT POLICY. (VANDERPERREN SAID THAT HE HAS EVEN TOLD US CHARTER CARRIERS THEY WILL BE WELCOME IN BELGIUM IF CLEARANCES FOR FLIGHTS TO LONDON OR PARIS ARE WITHHELD THIS SUMMER AS RETALIATION BECAUSE OF THE CONCORDE CONTROVERSY.) VANDERPERREN SAID THAT

BELGIUM IS CONSTANTLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM ECAC TO APPLY ITS CHARTER GUIDELINES, BUT THAT HIS AERONAUTICS ADMINISTRATION IS INCLINED TO GO ITS OWN WAY AND IS WILLING TO DO SO OPENLY IF THERE IS SOME ASSURANCE THAT US CHARTER TRAFFIC TO BELGIUM WILL NOT BE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED. HE ADDED THAT SINCE RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER MOU WAS SOUGHT ORIGINALLY BY THE US, BELGIAN AGREEMENT SHOULD IMPROVE THE CLIMATE IN WHICH BELGIUM WILL BEFORE LONG RENEW ITS BID FOR A SECOND US LANDING POINT.

3. VANDERPERREN SAYS HE IS PREPARED TO CONSULT ON THE BASIS OF EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE MOU PROPOSED BY THE US IN SEPTEMBER 1975. BELGIUM MAY WISH TO PROPOSE ADDITIONAL CHANGES; E.G., REFERENCE TO "SURVEILLANCE" OF PRICES. CONSULTATIONS WOULD ALSO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF GENERAL BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS, BUT AGREEMENT ON THE CHARTER MOU WOULD NOT DEPEND ON US CONCESSIONS ON MORE DISTANTLY RELATED BELGIAN DEMANDS. SPECIFICALLY, THE BELGIANS WOULD NOT HOLD OUT FOR THE SECOND LANDING POINT, THE NEW YORK-MEXICO BLIND SECTOR, OR PART-CHARTER AUTHORITY, ALL OF WHICH WERE DEMANDED IN THE 1975-76 CONSULTATIONS. VANDERPERREN IS THINKING BASICALLY OF EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT RETROACTIVELY AS IF THE PREVIOUS MOU HAD NEVER EXPIRED, AND MAKING IT VALID FOR THREE YEARS; I.E., THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1978.

4. VANDERPERREN TOLD US HE HAS NOT DISCUSSED THIS IDEA OUTSIDE OF HIS OWN DEPARTMENT. HE SAYS HE DOES NOT HAVE TO COORDINATE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BRING THEM INTO THE PICTURE AFTER FINDING OUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE US GOVERNMENT. HE HAS NOT DISCUSSED THIS INITIATIVE WITH SABENA EITHER. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DID NOT SAY, BUT WE JUDGE IT LIKELY THAT HE HAS THE APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER CHABERT TO BROACH THIS SUBJECT WITH US.

5. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED IN BELGIUM FOR APRIL 17. UNTIL THEN, THE GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN IN PLACE, BUT THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER CHABERT WILL REMAIN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, OR WHETHER THE BELGIANS WILL THEN BE INCLINED TO FOLLOW UP ON VANDERPERREN'S INITIATIVE. IT IS THUS DESIRABLE TO SIGNAL THE BELGIANS QUICKLY WHETHER WE ARE INTERESTED IN REOPENING DISCUSSION OF THE CHARTER MOU. IF WE SAY YES, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GO TO FORMAL CONSULTATIONS DURING THE FIRST HALF OF APRIL. PLEASE ADVISE. RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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